

Activity Participation Profiles in Persons with Severe Mental Illness

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Introduction

The WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a common framework to describe health-related status in humans. It emphasizes the importance of "Activity and Participation". As occupational therapists concern activity participation and occupational performance in their clients, the purpose of the study was to investigate the activity participation profiles between persons with depression versus those with schizophrenia, including duration, frequency, setting, and perceived purpose of participation, as well as subjective feelings while participation.

Objectives

The purpose of this research was:

- understand the activity participation profiles of persons with depression versus those with schizophrenia.
- increase awareness related to activity design issues to facilitate participation in the community.

Methods

Design: This study used a cross-sectional design.

Setting: This study was carried out at multiple hospitals in Taiwan..

Participants: The study collected data from 252 participants.

Main outcome measure: The instruments used in the study included Sense of Coherence Scale- 13 (SOC-13) , and Activity Participation and Restriction Questionnaire (APRQ).

Result

Our preliminary results revealed that there are significant differences on interpersonal relationships between persons with schizophrenia and those with depression. Although persons with depression may have wider social network, they prefer participating activities alone with the purposes of fulfilling obligation or others' expectations. On the contrary, persons with schizophrenia have more aspiration to engage in interpersonal relationships, and they tend to join smaller but stable peer groups. Another finding was that both diagnosis groups spent more time in work-related activities than sports or recreational ones. Work-related activities were significantly correlated with negative affects, while sports and recreational activities were significantly correlated with positive affects and negatively correlated with negative affects.

Both groups perceived participation restrictions in work, learning and leisure activities due to a lack of social support or abilities, poor physical conditions, or a lack of companionship.

Conclusions

The result of this study may provide further knowledge of activity participation among people with severe mental illness.

Contribution to the practice

This presentation provides subjective experiences on activity participation of persons with severe mental illness.